

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1-44. (Withdrawn)

45. (Currently amended): A computer program product for decentralized order matching among a plurality of separate, individual marketplaces, said computer program product comprising:

instruction means for receiving an order within a first one of said plurality of different individual marketplaces;

said plurality of marketplaces including a plurality of different individual on-line auction sites;

each one of said plurality of different individual marketplaces maintaining its own individual local order book that is separate and apart from local order books maintained by all others of said plurality of marketplaces, each local order book including a plurality of orders, said plurality of orders including a plurality of orders to buy items at a particular price and a plurality of orders to sell items at a particular price;

instruction means for posting said received order in a local order book maintained by said first one of said plurality of different individual marketplaces;

in response to posting said order in said local order book maintained by said first one of said plurality of different individual marketplaces, instruction means for determining, by said first one of said plurality of marketplaces, whether said first one of said plurality of marketplaces can match said received order with an order that is already posted in said local book maintained by said first one of said plurality of marketplaces;

in response to determining, by said first one of said plurality of marketplaces, that said first one of said plurality of marketplaces can match said received order with an order that is already posted in said local book maintained by said first one of said plurality of marketplaces, instruction means for clearing, by said first one of said plurality of marketplaces, said received order and said order already posted in said local book from said local order book;

in response to determining, by said first one of said plurality of marketplaces, that said first one of said plurality of marketplaces can not match said received order with an

order that is already posted in said local book maintained by said first one of said plurality of marketplaces, instruction means for transmitting, by said first one of said plurality of marketplaces, information about said received order to other ones of said plurality of marketplaces;

instruction means for determining, by within each of said other ones of said plurality of marketplaces which received said information about said received order, whether ~~said other one~~ another of said plurality of marketplaces can match said received order with at least one matching order posted in a local order book maintained by said other one of said plurality of marketplaces, each one of said plurality of marketplaces making its own matching determination; [[and]]

each one of said plurality of marketplaces executing its own matching process that attempts to match said received order with at least one matching order posted in said local order book maintained by said other one of said plurality of marketplaces; and

instruction means for in response to a determination that said other one of said plurality of marketplaces can match said received order, clearing said received order from said first one of said plurality of marketplaces and said at least one matching order posted in said local order book maintained by said other one of said plurality of marketplaces.

46. (Original): The product according to claim 45, further comprising instruction means for prior to transmitting said information about said received order to other ones of said plurality of marketplaces, locking said received order in said first one of said plurality of marketplaces, wherein said received order cannot be modified while said received order is locked.

47. (Original): The product according to claim 45, further comprising:  
instruction means for specifying a plurality of preferred ones of said plurality of marketplaces;

instruction means for transmitting information about said received order first to only said plurality of preferred ones of said plurality of marketplaces;

instruction means for determining whether any of said plurality of preferred ones of said plurality of marketplaces can match said received order with at least one matching

order posted in a local order book maintained by one of said plurality of preferred ones of said plurality of marketplaces; and

instruction means for in response to a determination that at least one of said plurality of preferred ones of said plurality of marketplaces can match said received order, clearing said received order from said first one of said plurality of marketplaces and said at least one matching order posted in said local order book maintained by said at least one of said plurality of preferred ones of said plurality of marketplaces.

48. (Original): The product according to claim 47, further comprising instruction means for in response to a determination that none of said plurality of preferred ones of said plurality of marketplaces can match said received order, transmitting said received order to ones of said plurality of marketplaces which are not said plurality of preferred ones of said plurality of marketplaces.

49. (Original): The product according to claim 45, further comprising:

instruction means for determining, within a plurality of said other ones of said plurality of marketplaces which received said received order, that said plurality of said other ones of said plurality of marketplaces can match said received order with a matching order posted in a local order book maintained by each of said plurality of said other ones of said plurality of marketplaces;

instruction means for receiving, within said first one of said plurality of marketplaces, information about a plurality of matching orders, said plurality of matching orders including information about said matching order posted in said local order book maintained by each of said plurality of said other ones of said plurality of marketplaces; and

instruction means for selecting a best order from said plurality of matching orders.

50. (Original): The product according to claim 49, further comprising instruction means for screening orders from non-approved ones of said plurality of marketplaces, wherein orders from non-approved marketplaces are not included in said plurality of matching orders.

51. (Original): The product according to claim 49, further comprising instruction means for transmitting a notice to one of said plurality of marketplaces where said best order is posted.

52. (Original): The product according to claim 51, further comprising instruction means for receiving a confirmation from said one of said plurality of marketplaces where said best order is posted that said best order has been cleared from a local order book maintained by said one of said plurality of marketplaces where said best order is posted.

53. (Original): The product according to claim 52, further comprising instruction means for clearing said received order from said first one of said plurality of marketplaces only in response to a receipt of said confirmation.

54. (Original): The product according to claim 53, further comprising instruction means for unlocking said received order in said first one of said plurality of marketplaces in response to a receipt of said confirmation.

55. (Original): The product according to claim 52, further comprising instruction means for unlocking said received order in said first one of said plurality of marketplaces in response to a determination that none of said other ones of said plurality of marketplaces can match said received order.

56. (Original): The product according to claim 51, further comprising:  
instruction means for receiving a notice from said one of said plurality of marketplaces where said best order is posted that said best order cannot be cleared from a local order book maintained by said one of said plurality of marketplaces where said best order is posted;

instruction means for removing said best order from plurality of matching orders;  
and

instruction means for selecting another order from remaining ones of said plurality of matching orders.

57. (Original): The product according to claim 45, further comprising:

instruction means for in response to a second one of said plurality of marketplaces receiving said information about said received order from said first one of said plurality of marketplaces, said second one determining whether said second one can match said received order with at least one order posted in a local order book maintained by said second one of said plurality of marketplaces; and

instruction means for in response to a determination that said second one of said plurality of marketplaces cannot match said received order, said second one of said plurality of marketplaces transmitting a notice to said first one of said plurality of marketplaces that no match exists.

58. (Original): The product according to claim 45, further comprising:

instruction means for in response to a second one of said plurality of marketplaces receiving said information about said received order from said first one of said plurality of marketplaces, said second one determining whether said second one can match said received order with at least one order posted in a local order book maintained by said second one of said plurality of marketplaces; and

instruction means for in response to a determination that said second one of said plurality of marketplaces can match said received order, said second one selecting all orders posted in said second one's local order book which match a product requested by said received order;

instruction means for said second one locking all of said selected orders; and

instruction means for said second one transmitting a notice to said first one, said notice including information about all of said selected orders.

59. (Original): The product according to claim 58, further comprising:

instruction means for said first one transmitting a specification of at least one of said selected orders to said second one;

instruction means in response to said second one has receiving a specification from said first one of said at least one of said selected orders:

for unlocking all of said selected orders;

for clearing said at least one of said selected orders specified by said first one; and

for said second one transmitting a confirmation to said first one that said at least one of said selected orders has been cleared.

60. (Canceled)

61. (Original): The product according to claim 45, wherein said instruction means for receiving an order further comprises instruction means for receiving an auction bid.

62. (Original): The product according to claim 45, wherein said instruction means for receiving an order further comprises instruction means for receiving a reverse auction bid.

63. (Original): The product according to claim 45, wherein said instruction means for receiving an order further comprises instruction means for receiving a multi-sided auction bid.

64. (Original): The product according to claim 45, wherein said instruction means for receiving an order further comprises instruction means for receiving a call auction bid.

65. (Original): The product according to claim 45, further comprising instruction means for establishing each one of said plurality of marketplaces in a different computer system.

66. (Original): The product according to claim 45, further comprising instruction means for establishing each one of said plurality of marketplaces in a different one of a plurality of computer systems, wherein said plurality of computer systems are coupled together utilizing the Internet.